The bill (H.R. 3553) was deemed read the third time and passed.

MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—S. 2073

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2073, introduced today by Senator NICKLES, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (S. 2073) to require the District of Columbia to comply with the 5-year time limit for welfare recipients, to prohibit any future waiver of such limit, and for other purposes.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request on behalf of Senators on the Democratic side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SE-CRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 104–34

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union [ITU], with annexes, signed at Geneva on December 22, 1992, Treaty Document No. 104-34, transmitted to the Senate by the President on September 13, 1996; that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), with Annexes, signed at Geneva on December 22, 1992, and amendments to the Constitution and Convention, signed at Kyoto on October 14, 1994, together with declarations and reservations by the United States as contained in the Final Acts. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Constitution and Convention and the amendments thereto.

The 1992 Constitution and Convention replace the ITU Convention signed in Nairobi in 1982. Prior to the 1992 Constitution and Convention, the ITU Convention had been routinely replaced at successive Plenipotentiary Conferences every 5 to 10 years. The 1992 Constitution and Convention represent the first basic instruments of

the ITU intended to be permanent. Basic provisions on the organization and structure of the ITU and fundamental substantive rules governing international telecommunications matters are embodied in the Constitution. The ITU Convention is comprised of provisions on the functioning of the ITU and its constituent parts.

The 1992 Constitution and Convention reflect the effort by ITU Member countries to restructure the ITU to make it more effective in responding to the changes taking place in telecommunications. The United States is pleased with the restructuring of the ITU. The changes adopted are expected to enable the ITU to meet challenges brought on by the dynamic telecommunications environment.

The 1994 ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences was convened less than 4 months after the entry into force of the Constitution and Convention to amend the 1992 Constitution and Convention. Recognizing that more time should be allowed to evaluate the extensive changes to the structure of the ITU, the Conference adopted only a few minor amendments, which were acceptable to the United States.

In signing the 1992 Constitution and Convention and the 1994 amendments, the United States made certain declarations and reservations. The specific declarations and reservations are discussed in the report of the Department of State.

The 1992 Constitution and Convention entered into force July 1, 1994, for states which, by that date, had notified the Secretary General of the ITU of their approval thereof and, in the same manner, the amendments to the Constitution and Convention entered into force on January 1, 1996.

Subject to the U.S. declarations and reservations mentioned above, I believe the United States should be a party to the ITU Constitution and Convention, as amended. They will improve the efficiency of management of the ITU and will allow it to be more responsive to the needs of the United States Government and private sector. It is my hope that the Senate will take early action on this matter and give its advice and consent to ratification.

AMENDING THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 570, S. 1983.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (S. 1983) to amend the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to provide for Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1983) was deemed read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1983

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT.

- (a) WRITTEN CONSENT REQUIRED IF NATIVE AMERICAN REMAINS ARE EXCAVATED OR REMOVED FOR PURPOSES OF STUDY.—Section 3(c) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3002(c) is amended—
- (1) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end of the paragraph;
- (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and
- (3) by adding at the end of the following new paragraph:
- "(5) in the case of any intentional excavation or removal of Native American human remains for purposes of study, such remains are excavated or removed after written consent is obtained from—
- "(A) lineal descendants, if known or readily ascertainable; or
- "(B) each appropriate Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.".
- (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR INADVERTENT DISCOVERIES.—Section 3(d) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3002(d)) is amended—
- (1) in paragraph (1), by striking "with respect to tribal lands, if known or readily ascertainable" and inserting ". With respect to tribal lands, such notification shall be provided to each appropriate Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization,"; and
- (2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following: "Any person or entity that disposes of or controls any such cultural item shall adhere to the applicable requirements of subsection (c)."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on the Executive Calendar: No. 719, the nomination of Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, to be vice admiral.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination was considered and confirmed, as follows:

NAVY

The following named officer for reappointment to the grade of vice admiral in the